

The Henry A. Brewster House
Rochester-New York
MONROE Co

HABS-NY220

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF NEW YORK-2

Historic American Building Survey
Walter H. Cassebeer, District Officer
84 Exchange St., Rochester, N.Y.

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Henry A. Brewster House
Spring and Washington Streets, Rochester, N.Y.

OWNER: Webster H. Kline
Allen's Creek Road, Brighton Station, Rochester, N.Y.

Occupant: Rochester Public Health Nursing Association

DATE OF ERECTION: 1849

ARCHITECT: Henry Searle
Rochester, N.Y.

BUILDER:

PRESENT CONDITION: The building is in practically the original state, only minor changes having been made to fit it for modern usage. Several toilets have been added, the old outhouses in the north west corner of the rear wing being now used for storage. Oak and linoleum floors have been added to the first floor. The summer kitchen has been plastered and a door changed to a window. The mantels are white Vermont marble, the one in the Parlor being false without chimney. All trim is white with the exception of doors in the main portion which are stained Red Brown. The Front Door has the old painted glass of the period of the house.

On the exterior several finials have been removed because of decay. A cast iron fence of a little later period was removed from the Spring and Washington Street lines in 1929. Stone watertable is Lockport Limestone.

The building is in excellent state of preservation.

NUMBER OF STORIES: There are two stories on the entire building except the rear brick and frame wing which is one. A basement is under the whole except the rear wing. An attic and cupola are over the main portion only.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: The foundation walls are of local stone with watertable of Lockport Limestone. The main portion and primary wing are brick of local manufacture with window sills and heads of Lockport Stone. The rear wing is part brick and part frame, the facade toward the street being frame. The roofs are tin. All balconies are cast iron. Old fence removed was cast iron. Other exterior trim probably white pine.

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OTHER EXISTING RECORDS:

The Rochester Times Union, May 28, 1924
Centennial History of Rochester, Vol II, Article on
Architecture in Rochester. 1933
Phelps & Gorham Purchase, Orsamus Turner, 1851

ADDITIONAL DATA:

Henry A. Brewster, b Dec 30, 1803, d April 8, 1876
was one of several children of Henry Brewster and Rebecca
Lester. He was a lineal decendent of the Elder William
Brewster who came over in the Mayflower. He married a
Parthenia L

Judge Henry Brewster, the father, purchased land from
James Wadsworth, Esq. of Big Tree, now Geneseo, N.Y. about
1803 and moved his family into the Genesee Country in May
1807, settling in the town of West Pulteney, Genesee
County, now Riga, Monroe County.

Henry O'Reilly in "Sketches of Rochester", 1838 mentions
Henry A. Brewster as "agent for the Saratoga County
Ensurance Company and the Spring Garden Ensurance Company
of Philadelphia". His listings in the local directory from
1841 to 1861 state that he is the Grocery Business, Banking,
Insurance, Commission and Real Estate, his later offices
being in the Arcade. He died in Washington D.C. and is
buried in Rochester, N.Y.

The land on which the house stands is known as Lot 207 of
the 100 Acre Tract, laid out by the founders of Rochester
in 1811. This lot was first sold by William Fitzhugh to
Mary E. Tallman in 1833. In 1849 it was purchased by Mr.
Brewster in the name of his wife for \$1500. The lot being
too small for the house an additional 12 feet were added to
the north for a consideration of \$500. The house and lot
were sold in 1857 to John F. Bush for \$12500. It was
assessed at \$8000. In 1933 the assessed value is placed at
\$18000.

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